

response to this action to three (3) months from the date thereof requiring a response to be filed on or before July 1, 2003.

Pursuant to a Petition under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.136(a), concurrently filed herewith, together with the fee required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.17(a)(3), the undersigned elects to extend the response date three (3) months from July 1, 2003 to October 1, 2003.

The listing of Claims is as follows:

1. (currently amended) A bag for carrying a ball wherein said bag includes a an outer member (34) defining an interior and an exterior surface configured in the shape of a ball and having an opening (38) positioned therein for inserting and removing a ball from the outer member, said bag comprising

a carrying handle (60) operatively connected in a predetermined position to said outer member (34) at a location other than the opening (38), said carrying handle (60) having a first strap member (64) having a first end (68) and a second end (70), said first end (68) being operatively connected to said exterior surface of said outer member (34), said second end (70) being rigidly connected to said first strap member (64) and terminating in a connecting member (76) and a second strap member (90) having a first end (92) and a second end (79), said first end (92) of said second strap member (90) being operatively mounted on the exterior surface of said outer member (34) and

said second end (79) of said second strap member (90) interacting with said connecting member (76) forming a carrying handle (60) wherein said connecting member (76) and said second end (79) of said second strap member (90) are moveable relative to each other; and

a fastening member (50) located within said opening (38) and extending in a selected direction on said outer member (34) wherein at least a portion thereof extends in a direction substantially perpendicular to said carrying handle (60), said carrying handle (60) being positioned to refrain from interfering with the inserting and removing of a ball from said outer member (34) defining the bag.

2. (original) The bag of claim 1 wherein the configured shape of a ball is in the shape of a round ball.

3. (original) The bag of claim 1 wherein the configured shape of a ball is in the shape of a basketball.

4. (original) The bag of claim 1 wherein the configured shape of a ball is in the shape of a baseball.

5. (original) The bag of claim 1 wherein the configured shape of a ball is in the shape of a soccer ball.

6. (original) The bag of claim 1 wherein the configured shape of a ball is in the shape of a football.

7. (currently amended) The bag of claim 7 1 further comprising

at least one outer pocket positioned on the exterior surface of said outer member at a location other than the opening and having an entryway enabling the insertion and removal of an article from said one outer pocket.

8. (currently amended) The bag of claim 7 wherein said one outer pocket is formed of a solid fabric.

9. (previously Amended) The bag of claim 7 wherein said one outer pocket is formed of a mesh fabric.

10. (original) The bag of claim 7 wherein said one outer pocket includes an interior cavity and said entryway communicates with and provides access to said interior cavity.

11. (original) The bag of claim 7 wherein said entryway includes a zipper which has an open position and a closed position, said zipper when in an open position affording access to the interior cavity of said one outer pocket.

12. (original) The bag of claim 7 further comprising a flap operatively connected to at least one of said entryway and said exterior surface of the outer member, said flap having an open position and a closed position, said flap when in an open position affording access through said entryway to the interior cavity of said one outer pocket.

13. (original) The bag of claim 7 wherein said outer pocket includes a second fastening member which cooperates with a mating

member located on at least one of a flap and exterior surface of the outer member.

14. (previously Amended) The bag of claim 7 wherein said second fastening member and said mating member are mating elements defining a hook and loop fastener.

15. (original) The bag of claim 7 wherein said second fastening member is at least one of a button and a button hole and said mating member is the other of said at least one of a button and a button hole.

16. (original) The bag of claim 7 wherein said second fastening member is at least one of a rotatable fastener and an aperture for receiving a rotatable fastener and said mating member is the other of said at least one of a rotatable fastener and an aperture for receiving a rotatable fastener.

17. (original) The bag of claim 9 wherein said mesh fabric is formed of an elastic material.

18. (currently amended) A bag for holding a ball comprising an outer member (34) having an interior and an exterior surface configured in the shape of a ball and defining an inner enclosed space, said exterior surface including an opening (38) formed therein in a selected direction and in communication with said inner enclosed space for affording the insertion and removal of ball therefrom;

a carrying handle (60) operatively connected in a predetermined position to said outer member at a location other than the opening (38), said carrying handle having a first strap member (64) having a first end (68) and a second end (70), said first end (68) being operatively connected to said outer member (34), said second end ~~(68)~~ 70 being rigidly connected to said first strap member (64) for fixing the length of said first member and terminating in a connecting member (76), and said first carrying handle (60) having a second strap member (64) 90 having a first end (92) and a second end (79), said first end (92) of said second strap member (90) being operatively mounted on the outer member (34) and said second end (79) interacting with said connecting member (76) forming a carrying handle (60) wherein said connecting member (76) and said second end (79) of said strap member (90) are moveable relative to each other;

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a fastening member (50) having an open and a closed position, said fastening member (50) being operatively connected to said opening (38) wherein at least a portion thereof extends in a direction substantially perpendicular to said ~~first~~ second end ~~(92)~~ and ~~said second end (79) of the carrying handle (60)~~ (70) of said first strap member (64) and being adapted to make said opening (38) an unsecured opening when said fastening member (50) is in the open position and adapted to make said opening

(38) a secured opening when said fastening member (50) is in a closed position; and

at least one outer pocket (40) configured to be expanded to receive an article wherein said at least one outer pocket (40) is positioned on and protrudes outwardly from the exterior surface of said outer member at a location other than the opening (38) and having an entryway enabling the insertion and removal of an article from said one outer pocket (40).

19. (previously amended) The bag of claim 18 having at least two outer pockets positioned on said exterior surface of the outer member and protruding outwardly at a location other than said opening and spaced from said carrying handle, said at least one outer pocket having an entryway enabling the insertion and removal of an article from said at least one outer pocket independent of a ball being located in said inner enclosed space.

20. (original) The bag of claim 18 wherein said carrying handle is positioned at least substantially perpendicular to at least a portion of said opening.

21. (currently amended) A bag for holding a ball comprising a outer member (34) having an interior and an exterior surface configured in the shape of a ball and defining an inner enclosed space, said exterior surface including an opening (30) formed therein in a selected direction and in communication with

said inner enclosed space for affording the insertion and removal of ball from said outer member;

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a carrying handle (60) having a first strap member (64) having a first end (68) and a second end (70) operatively connected in a predetermined position to said outer member (34) at a location other than the opening (38), said carrying handle (60) having said first end (68) being operatively connected to said exterior surface of said outer member (34), said second end (70) being rigidly connected to said first strap member (64) for fixing the length of said first strap member and terminating in a connecting member (76), and a second strap member (90) having a first end (92) and said a second end (79) interacting with said connecting member (76) forming a carrying handle (60) wherein said connecting member (76) and said second end (79) of said fixed length second strap member (90) are moveable relative to each other;

a fastening member (50) having an open and a closed position, said fastening member (50) being operatively connected to said opening (38) wherein at least a portion thereof extends in a direction substantially perpendicular to said first end (68) and said second end (70) of the carrying handle and being adapted to make said opening an unsecured opening when said fastening member is in the open position and adapted to make said opening

(38) a secured opening when said fastening member (50) is in a closed position; and

at least one outer pocket (40) positioned on and protruding outwardly from the exterior surface of said outer member (34) at a location other than the opening (38) and having an entryway (42) enabling the insertion and removal of an article from said one outer pocket (40).

22. (previously added) The bag of claim 21 having at least two outer pockets positioned on said exterior surface of the outer member and protruding outwardly at a location other than said opening and spaced from said carrying handle, said at least one outer pocket having an entryway enabling the insertion and removal of an article from said at least one outer pocket independent of a ball being located in said inner enclosed space.

23. (new) The bag of claim 21 further comprising a ruggedized carrier (490) having an elongated carrying strap (492) having a first end (502) and a second end (512), said first end (502) of said elongated carrying strap (492) being operatively connected to said first end (72) of said first strap member (64) and said second end (512) of said elongated carrying strap (492) being operatively coupled to the second end (78) of said second strap member (90).

24. (new) The bag of claim 23 wherein said elongated carrying strap (492) has a fixed length.